

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CORPORATE SERVICES CABINET MEMBER

PROPOSALS TO REMOVE BT CALL BOXES- PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Cabinet Member of the residents and parish council's views on BT's proposals to allow the adoption of red telephone kiosks across North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 To summarise any representations received and to recommend to BT which kiosks should in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority be retained/adopted. Any comments should be reported to BT by 19 December 2009.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 BT is proposing to allow the adoption of 21 telephone kiosks within North Lincolnshire. These kiosks are of the traditional red design, which hold a special place in the heritage of the UK. Last year consultation was undertaken by BT to remove a number of kiosks in North Lincolnshire, the majority of which were the traditional red design. Due to the level of objections received by BT about the removal of the red kiosks BT agreed to devise an alternative proposal, other than the removal of the red kiosks.
- 2.2 The alternative proposal involves what BT calls the "adoption" of the red kiosk by the local parish council. For a nominal fee of £1, BT will allow the Parish Council to take control of the red kiosk and be responsible for its upkeep. However, adoption of a kiosk will also result in the telephony equipment being removed.
- 2.3 Usage figures have been provided to show how many times the kiosks have been used in the past 12 months, the vast majority of which show that the kiosks have been rarely used. Only two kiosks were used more than 100 times, whilst the rest were at 50 calls or below, some even had no calls made in the past 12 months.
- 2.4 Under the Office of Communications (OFCOM) regulations BT must consult with the council in order to seek the adoption of the telephone kiosks that are listed in the table which can be found in Appendix 1 attached to this report. It is then the responsibility of the council to carry out its own consultation process with Parish Councils and local residents.

- 2.5 The council has informed the relevant Parish Councils by letter of BT's intentions to allow the adoption of a telephone kiosk(s) within their Parish. Site notices have also been displayed in the individual telephone kiosks that BT are seeking to allow the adoption informing residents/users of BT intentions. BT has also carried out its own consultation with the Parish Councils which has enabled them to obtain their own information.
- 2.6 The representations received are summarised in Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The consultation process carried out by the council has identified which telephone kiosks the Parish Councils wish to adopt. The process of adoption will remove the telephony equipment from the kiosk which will in essence leave the red telephone box for Parish Council to maintain. In instances where kiosks have been relatively well used, the council has objected to their adoption – if a request has been made. There are no other options for consideration.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The adoption of the telephone kiosks has been proposed by BT because they are little used, but are recognised for their cultural heritage and their unique place in British life. Appendix 1 lists the number of calls made from some of the telephone kiosks BT is proposing to allow to be adopted.
- 4.2 Some telephone kiosks provide a limited community facility as they appear to be so little used by the community by virtue of the level of representations received and number of calls made from them. However a significant number of calls have been made indicating that some of the kiosks are well used. It is accepted that mobile coverage in some areas is poor, although this will depend on the service provider, but landlines will still be available in the area.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Financial
- 5.1.1 No issues
- 5.2 Staffing
- 5.2.1 No issues
- 5.3 Property
- 5.3.1 No issues

5.4 IT

5.4.1 No issues

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Statutory

6.1.1 Under the Office of Communications (OFCOM) Regulations BT must consult with the council in order to seek adoption of the telephone kiosks listed in appendix 1.

6.2 Environmental

6.2.1 None

6.3 Diversity

6.3.1 The adoption of telephone kiosks would result in the removal of telephony from the kiosk, which could leave small communities cut off from telephone access.

6.4 Section 17 – Crime and Disorder

6.4.1 None

6.5 Risk

6.5.1 None

6.6 Other

6.6.1 The council can only make recommendations to BT. It will be for BT to make the final decision about the adoption of kiosks where Parish Councils have requested to do so.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The council has carried out consultation on this matter. The relevant Parish Councils have been informed by letter. Site notices have been displayed in the relevant telephone kiosks. The representations received are summarised within the table found within Appendix 1.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the views of the Cabinet Member be sought on the adoption of a number of BT Phone Boxes within North Lincolnshire having regard to the information and consultation responses received.

SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6XQ
Author: MW
Date: 17 December 2009

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Letters from BT dated 19th September 2009

Telephone Number	Listed	Address	Postcode	Number of Calls in last 12 months	Agree/Object to adoption	Supportive Comments
1469530403	No	Barrow Haven, Barrow upon Humber	DN19 7EX	26	Agree	PC do not wish to adopt
1427872359	No	Jc Belshaw Lane, Carr House Road, Belton	DN9 1PG	5	Agree	PC Do wish to adopt
1427872603	No	Jcn Stockshill, High Street, Belton	DN9 1LR	22	Agree	PC Do wish to adopt
1652618252	No	Main Street, Bonby	DN20 0PW	32	Agree	No PC reply
1625650704	No	Brigg Road, Wressle	DN20 oBP	11	Agree	PC do not wish to adopt
1652678229	No	Main Street, Cadney	DN20 9HR	22	Agree	No PC reply
1652678301	No	Main Street, Howsham	LN7 6LD	0	Agree	No PC reply
1469530511	No	South End, Goxhill	DN19 7LZ	0	Agree	No PC reply
1469530314	No	The Pines, North End, Goxhill	DN19 7JR	52	Agree	No PC reply
1469530207	No	Howe Lane, Goxhill	DN19 7HS	6	Agree	No PC reply
1652618211	No	Main Street, Horkstow	DN18 6BE	5	Agree	No PC reply
1652688301	No	Nr Marrow Bone Public House, High Street, Kirmington	DN39 6YZ	41	Agree	PC Do wish to adopt
1427728211	No	Gunthorpe, Doncaster	DN9 1BQ	2	Agree	PC Do wish to adopt
1724732390	No	South Street, Roxby	DN15 0BP	153	Object	No PC reply
1724846316	No	High Street, Dragonby	DN15 0BE	2	Agree	No PC reply
1652618279	No	Main Street, Saxby all Saints	DN20 0QF	36	Agree	PC Do wish to adopt
1652635243	No	High Street, South Ferriby	DN18 6HZ	191	Object	No PC reply

1469530541	No	Burnham, Barton upon Humber	DN18 6EE	4	Agree	No PC reply
1652618711	No	Top Road, Worlaby	DN20 0NL	35	Agree	PC Do wish to adopt